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# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/841,460 | 04/24/2001 | Yervant D. Lepejian | HEUR-017 | 5366 |

7590        05/24/2004

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| EXAMINER |
|---|
| NGUYEN BA, HOANG VU A |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2122 | 6 |

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO 90C (Rev 10/03)

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _24 April 2001_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.     2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-83_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-83_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _24 April 2001_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _4_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

1.      This action is responsive to the application filed April 24, 2001.

2.      Claims 1-83 have been examined.

### *Information Disclosure Statement*

3.      The Office acknowledges receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed
June 25, 2003. Since the date of publication of several of the references (e.g., Switch
Engine, Conditional Execution Engine, etc.) was not provided, the Office uses the
date of publication of the WorkflowView™ program, which is December 10, 1998
(see attached copy of snapshot of U.S. Copyright Office Web Site, Registration No.
TX-5-122-061) for art rejection purposes.

### *Drawings*

4.      The drawings filed April 24, 2001 are approved by the examiner.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

5.      The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject
> matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6.      Claims 68 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being
indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter
which applicant regards as the invention.

    Claim 68 recites the limitation "said condition" in line 4. There is insufficient
antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 69 recites the limitation "said condition" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

## *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

7.      The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8.      Claims 1-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heuristic Physics Laboratories, Inc.' s("HPL") software development tools (YIELDXplorer™, WorkflowView™, etc.).

**Claims 1, 17 and 20**

HPL discloses at least:

*means for displaying a workspace on a computer screen* (see at least WorkflowView™, Users Guide, Figure 3-1 and related discussion in the Users Guide); *and*

*means for displaying a plurality of objects on said computer screen individually selectable to be placed and coupled together in said workspace to define a workflow for a user interactive program, wherein at least one of said plurality of objects has at least one interactively alterable operation parameter during execution of said user interactive program* (WorkflowView™, Users Guide, Figure 3-1 and related discussion in the Users Guide).

### Claim 34

Since claim 34 recites all of the features of claim 1, claim 34 is also rejected for the same reason. Per claim 34, HPL further discloses *wherein at least one of said plurality of objects performs an interactively alterable switch function for directing data flow within said user interactive program* (see Switch Engine, User Manual, pp. 4-7).

### Claims 35 and 49

Since claims 35 and 49 recite a software development tool employing the same workflow means for displaying of the tool recited in claim 20, the same rejection is applied. HPL further discloses *wherein at least one of said plurality of objects facilitates branch processing according to a user indicated selection from displayed information generated by said user interactive program* (see at least Conditional Execution Engine, User Manual, pp. 4-8).

### Claims 50 and 66

Since claims 50 and 66 recite a software development tool employing the same workflow means for displaying of the tool recited in claim 20, the same rejection is applied. HPL further discloses *wherein at least one of said plurality of objects facilitates assigning a name to a selected input port of another one of said plurality of objects so that data may be provided directly to said input port* (see at least WorkflowView™, Users Guide, section 5.2, "Setting External Input/Output Engine Properties).

### Claims 67 and 83

Since claims 50 and 66 recite a software development tool employing the same workflow means for displaying of the tool recited in claim 1, the same rejection is applied. HPL further discloses *wherein at least one of said plurality of objects prompts a user for input when a condition is met while executing said user interactive program* (see at least Figure

23-1, Conditional Execution Engine, User Manual and related discussion in the
manual).

### Claims 2 and 18

The rejection of base claims 1 and 17 is incorporated. HPL further discloses
*means for developing a user interactive program such that at least one properties page including at
least one interactively alterable operation parameter is displayable to a user prior to execution of said
user interactive program* (see at least Figure 5-2: Example of Display Properties Page
Window; WorkflowView™, Users Guide, section 5.1.1).

### Claims 3 and 19

The rejection of base claims 1 and 17 and intervening claims 2 and 18 is
incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein said at least one properties page includes a
properties page for each object having at least one interactively alterable operation parameter* (see at
least Figure 5-2: Example of Display Properties Page Window; WorkflowView™,
Users Guide, section 5.1.1).

### Claims 4, 21, 36, 53 and 70

The rejection of base claims and intervening claims is incorporated. HPL
further discloses *wherein one of said plurality of objects is a first input object for extracting first
specified data from a first selected database* (see at least Figures 1-1, 5-4 "Path to Field",
WorkflowView™, Users Guide).

### Claims 5, 22, 37 54 and 71

The rejection of base claims and intervening claims is incorporated. HPL
further discloses *wherein another one of said plurality of objects is a second input object for*

*extracting second specified data from a second selected database having a different schema than said first selected database* (see at least Figures 1-1, 5-4; WorkflowView™, Users Guide).

### Claims 6, 23, 38, 55 and 72

The rejection of base claims and intervening claims is incorporated. HPL further discloses *means for developing a user interactive program, such that at least one properties page including an interactively alterable switch function for directing data flow from said first and second input objects to a remainder of said workflow is displayable to a user prior to execution of said user interactive program* (see at least Figure 4-6, WorkflowView™, Users Guide; Figure 20-3, Switch Engine, User Manual).

### Claims 7, 24, 39, 56 and 73

The rejection of base claims is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein one of said plurality of objects is an output object programmable to store output data in a specified output file* (see at least sections 4.1.3, 4.1.4 – NOTE: –, WorkflowView™, Users Guide).

### Claims 8, 11, 25, 28, 40, 43, 57, 60, 74 and 77

The rejection of base claims and intervening claims is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein said specified output file resides on a remote computer* (see at least Figure 1-1 "Metadatabase", Figure 5-4 "Servers", WorkflowView™, Users Guide).

### Claims 9, 26, 41, 58 and 75

The rejection of base claims and intervening claims is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein said output object is programmable to provide said output data to an executable program* (see at least Figure 5-4 and related discussion in the manual, WorkflowView™, Users Guide).

### Claims 10, 12, 27, 29, 42, 44, 59, 61, 76 and 78

The rejection of base claims and intervening claims is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein said output object is programmable to provide said output data to an executable program, and launch said executable program* (see at least Figure 5-4 and related discussion in the manual, WorkflowView™, Users Guide).

### Claims 13, 63 and 80

The rejection of the base claim is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein one of said plurality of objects performs an interactively alterable switch function for directing data flow within said workflow* (see at least Figure 4-6, WorkflowView™, Users Guide; Figure 20-3, Switch Engine, User Manual).

### Claims 14, 31, 46, 64 and 81

The rejection of the base claim is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein one of said plurality of objects facilitates branch processing according to a user indicated selection from displayed information generated by said user interactive program* (see at least Conditional Execution Engine, User Manual, pp. 4-8).

### Claims 15, 32, 47, and 82

The rejection of the base claim is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein one of said plurality of objects facilitates assigning a name to a selected input port of another one of said plurality of objects so that data may be provided directly to said input port* (see at least WorkflowView™, Users Guide, section 5.2, "Setting External Input/Output Engine Properties).

**Claims 16, 33, 48 and 65**

The rejection of the base claim is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein one of said plurality of objects prompts a user for input when a condition is met while executing said user interactive program* (see at least Figure 23-1, Conditional Execution Engine, User Manual and related discussion in the manual).

**Claims 30, 45, 62 and 79**

The rejection of the base claim is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein one of said plurality of objects has at least one interactively alterable operation parameter* (see at least Figure 5-2: Example of Display Properties Page Window; WorkflowView™, Users Guide, section 5.1.1).

**Claim 51**

The rejection of base claim 50 is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein said data is provided by a user indicating a container for said data through a string command to execute said user interactive program* (see at least Figure 4-11, WorkflowView™, Users Guide).

**Claim 52**

The rejection of base claim 50 is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein said data is provided by another computer program by indicating a container for said data through a string command to execute said user interactive program* (see at least Figure 4-11, WorkflowView™, Users Guide).

**Claim 68**

The rejection of base claim 67 is incorporated. HPL further discloses *wherein another of said plurality of objects is a condition object facilitating interactive specification of said condition* (see at least Figure 23-3: Conditional Execution Engine Workflow Usage; Conditional Execution Engine, User Manual).

### Claim 69

The rejection of base claim 67 is incorporated. HPL further discloses *means for developing a user interactive program such that a properties page associated with said condition object and facilitating interactive specification of said condition is displayable to a user prior to execution of said user interactive program* (see at least Figure 23-3: Conditional Execution Engine Workflow Usage; Conditional Execution Engine, User Manual).

## *Conclusion*

9.      The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Template Software teaches Developing a WFT Workflow System, WFT Version 8.0, Second Edition, Date of publication October 31, 1997.

10.     Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang-Vu A Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (703) 305-0103. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday, 6:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached on (703) 305-4552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANTONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit 2122

May 19, 2004

**Copyright** | Search Records Results

Registered Works Database (Title Search)
**Search For:** WORKFLOWVIEW
**Item 1 of 1**

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|---|---|
| 1. Registration Number: | TX-5-122-061 |
| Title: | WorkflowView. |
| Description: | Computer program. |
| Note: | Printout only deposited. |
| Claimant: | [Author and claimant] Heuristic Physics Laboratories, Inc. |
| Created: | 1998 |
| Published: | 10Dec98 |
| Registered: | 10Jan00 |
| Special Codes: | 1/C |

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